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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Comite Central de los Refugiados en Venezuela
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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The organization founded in March 1950 under the guidance of Father Franciszek Woloszyk, Polish priest in Caracas, to protect the interests of immigrants to Venezuela from Iron Curtain countries has adopted the name of Comite Central de los Refugiados en Venezuela. In May the Comite drew up a charter which has been submitted to the Venezuelan Ministry of the Interior for approval.

2. The rather lengthy statutes of the Comite read in part as follows:

"The Comite Central de los Refugiados en Venezuela will have the following objectives:

- "a. To maintain relations and mutual cultural and social collaboration between Venezuelans and refugees resident in Venezuela;
- "b. To foster cultural, scientific, and social development and to work wholeheartedly toward the great future of the new Fatherland, Venezuela;
- "c. To aid refugees to organize their lives in Venezuela, especially in regard to the cultivation of land in the interior;
- "d. To extend spiritual, cultural, and material protection, as well as any other need, to the refugees, based on love of God and one's fellows;
- "e. To aid refugees recently arrived in Venezuela;
- "f. To aid, in accordance with the laws of the country, all refugees outside the country;
- "g. To inculcate in refugees respect for the laws of the country and a spirit of collaboration with the ideals of Venezuela and America."

3. It is the desire of this new group to succeed the IRO when the latter organization ceases operation, and, in this connection, a report on the Committee has been submitted to the Director General of the IRO in Geneva. The Venezuelan delegate to

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the IRO in Geneva is reported to have stated that the Committee appears to be the only logical group to take over IRO activities but that it must be headed by a Venezuelan.

4. On 13 June 1950 a small meeting of the Committee was held at the IRO offices in Caracas. The meeting was presided over by Father Woloszyk and was attended by about twelve persons, including Mr. Ten Broeck Williamson, head of the IRO in Venezuela. Woloszyk indicated that the Committee hoped to be legalized shortly by the Ministry of the Interior. There followed a discussion of the problem of admitting representatives of national groups not now represented on the Committee. Although it was generally felt that all Eastern European groups should eventually be admitted upon application after the Committee is legalized, no decision was reached on the advisability of including Russians or Ukrainians. At present members of the Lithuanian, Polish, Hungarian, Czechoslovakian, and Serbian colonies in Caracas are represented on the Committee. A possibility of internal conflict arose when a discussion took place about a Slovak who is being sponsored for membership by Woloszyk. The two Czech members indicated that they felt that the Slovaks should not form a separate group but should join with the Czech branch of the Committee.
5. Although no attempt is being made to determine the exact scope of the Committee until its legalization, considerable time was spent at this meeting in discussion of the possibilities. Since one of the primary factors will be the availability of funds, mention was made of the possibility of aid from IRO sources when that agency closes as well as from the Venezuelan Government. In addition to functions similar to those performed by the IRO in advising and aiding immigrants, the possibility of providing legal and medical services was discussed.

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